

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-14 are pending in this application. Claims 12- 14 are now presented for examination.

Claims 1, 3, and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 01316268 to *Funada* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,448,121 to *Uno et al.* and U.S. Patent No. 6,036,187 to *Schaede*. Claims 4, 5, and 9, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Funada* in view of *Uno et al.* and *Schaede* as applied to claims 1, 3, and 6-7 and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,794,856 to *Giori*. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Funada* in view of *Uno et al.* and *Schaede* as applied to claims 1, 3, and 6-7 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,140 to *Reinhard et al.*

The present rejection of claims 1, 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

The references being again cited and being relied upon have been discussed at length in the previous Office Actions in responses thereto; however, it should be pointed out that in the present Office Action dated August 20, 2004, beginning at page 7 and continuing on page 8, the Examiner states "In response to applicant's argument that *Schaede* does not disclose or suggest that the second delivery chain is located in relatively close proximity to the site above the delivered path and extends along its entire length so as to be parallel to a floor surface of the printing machine. Figure 1 of *Schaede* shows a

second delivery chain 47, which is located in relatively close proximity to a site above the delivery path, 63-69, and extends along its length so as to be parallel to a floor surface of the printing machine.”

In response to this statement, it should be pointed out that only a portion of the chain conveyor 47 of *Schaede* runs parallel across the sheet delivery device, the remainder of the chain conveyor as shown in Figure 1 thereof turns upwardly at a right angle into an upper housing where it runs in an inclined position adjacent the transport cylinders 29, 31 and 37.

Applicant's structure eliminates the upper housing and brings the transport cylinder 18, 19 and 20 down immediately adjacent the delivery pile apparatus and being located at a position higher than the first delivery chain and lower than the second delivery chain. Also the second delivery chain extends in a straight line along its entire length directly above a delivery pile and being parallel to a floor surface in which the printing machine is installed. This results in a printing machine having a reduced height because, inter alia, the upper housing section of *Schaede* where the transport cylinders 29, 31 and 37 is eliminated.

Claims 1, 6 and 10 are now amended to include the limitations of the second delivery chain being located in relatively close proximity to a site directly above the delivery pile and extending in a straight line along its entire length and being parallel to a floor surface in which the printing machine is

installed; a plurality of transport cylinders for transporting the sheet-like materials from the first delivery chain to the second delivery chain and providing a position higher than the first delivery chain and lower than the second delivery chain, wherein the plurality of transport cylinders include a first transport cylinder and a second transport cylinder provided immediately adjacent the delivery pile and arranged in a zigzag fashion with respect to a generally vertical direction; and, wherein the first transport cylinder and the second transport cylinder are located below a position where the sheet-like material transported by the second delivery chain is released from the second delivery chain and delivered to the delivery pile.

The added limitations now recited in claims 1, 6 and 10 clearly set forth the differences between the printing machine of the present invention and the *Schaede* sheet processing machine. The three transport cylinders 29, 31 and 39 of *Schaede* are all located above a delivery pile and the second delivery chain extends upwardly over the transport cylinder thereof, making the height of the printing machine relatively high due to the housing in which the elements are located. By contrast, the arrangement of the first and second transport cylinders of the present invention are located in such a manner that the height dimension of the printing machine is significantly reduced.

With respect to the *Funada*, *Uno et al.* and *Giori* references cited and applied, none of these references describe or suggest the feature of the first

transport cylinder being located below a position where the sheet-like material is transported by the second delivery chain is released therefrom and delivered to the delivery pile.

It is respectfully submitted that this feature is neither taught nor suggested from the references cited and relied upon, taken either singly or in combination, nor would such be obvious without hindsight provided by applicant's own disclosure, particularly where the second delivery chain is only located in a relatively close position to a site directly above a delivery pile and extends only along its entire length thereacross while being parallel to the floor surface in which the printing machine is installed.

Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 6 and 10 comprise allowable independent claims and the respective dependent claims depending therefrom are allowable by virtue of their dependency.

Newly submitted claims 12, 13 and 14 respectively depend from independent claims 1, 6 and 10 and now include the limitation of a third transport cylinder so that the plurality of transport cylinders comprise three transport cylinders in a zigzag configuration shown in Figures 1 and 2 of applicant's drawing and where the first transport cylinder is in contact with the upstream-side delivery cylinder, the third transport cylinder is in contact with the downstream-side delivery cylinder and the second cylinder is located between and in offset contact with the first and third transfer cylinders.

It is submitted that the combination of three transport cylinders as claimed in claims 12, 13 and 14 is also neither taught nor suggested by the references of record, but nevertheless would become allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1, 6 and 10.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims in the application are deemed to be in condition for allowance and, therefore, further and favorable action is therefore requested.

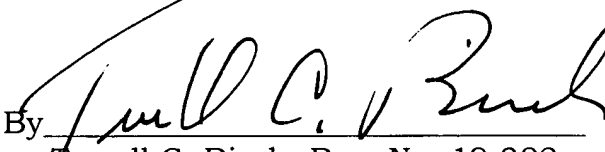
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Terrell C. Birch (Reg. No.19,382) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 10/826,831
Attorney Docket No. 0965-0348P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)